

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 10/720,194
Docket No. Q78543

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5 are independent claims. New claims 5-16 have been added.

Formal Matters

Specification

As an initial matter, the Examiner has objected to the specification, alleging several informalities. First, the Examiner has objected to the use of the abbreviation “LC”. Although the use of the abbreviation LC for an LC connector, as well as what structure constitutes an LC connector, would have been known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention, Applicant has added the phrase “light crimp” to the specification as a convenience for the Examiner.

Moreover, the Examiner has objected to the Background section and has requested that a Prior Art Figure is used. Accordingly, Applicant has added a new Figure 2 showing LC connectors.

Finally, the Examiner has requested that a Brief Description of the Drawings Section be added. Applicant has amended the specification accordingly.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the specification in view of the amendments above. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 10/720,194
Docket No. Q78543

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, alleging an informality. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that the “aperture guide” of claim 2 and “spring” of claim 1 must be shown in the drawings. Applicant has amended Fig. 1C to refer to these features AG, SP and has amended the specification so that it is consistent with the drawing changes.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings in view of the amendments to the drawing discussed above. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

First Paragraph

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the “disclosure does not show latch, mating socket latch, slide SL in adequate details” and that the latch mounting and release are not shown in a clear and enabling manner. Moreover, the Examiner has indicated that a new Figure is required to show how the latch is used and to retain the connectors and how the slide is mounted and used to cause release.

As an initial matter, one of ordinary skill in the art would know how an LC connector is provided in a socket. Accordingly, the specification cannot be deficient because it does not explain in detail the well known connection of the LC connector and socket because the original

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Appln. No. 10/720,194
Docket No. Q78543

specification would allow one of ordinary skill could make or use the invention without undue experimentation. See MPEP §2164.01.

As to the relationship between the latch of the LC connector and the slide SL, Applicant has amended original Fig. 1 so that the Figure has been divided into three separate Figs. 1A-1C. Moreover, Applicant has amended the specification so that it is consistent with the drawing changes. As is discussed with respect to the *non-limiting* embodiment in the original specification, when the slide SL is pushed from the position REST in Fig. 1A to the position PUSH in Fig. 1B, the protrusion VP of the latch SL presses the latch LC-RL, thus disconnecting the LC connector from the socket SK.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the §112, first paragraph, rejection of the claims.

Second Paragraph

Claims 1-4 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. In response, Applicant has made cosmetic changes to the claims. In view of these minor changes, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the §112, second paragraph, rejection of the claims.

New Claims

New claims 5-16 have been added to provide additional claim coverage.

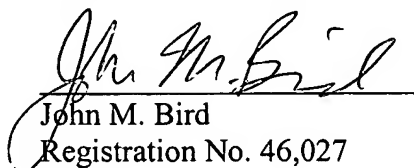
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 10/720,194
Docket No. Q78543

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 21, 2004

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 10/720,194
Docket No. Q78543

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 has been renumbered as Figs. 1A-1C.

New Fig. 2 has been added. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet
One (1) New Sheet